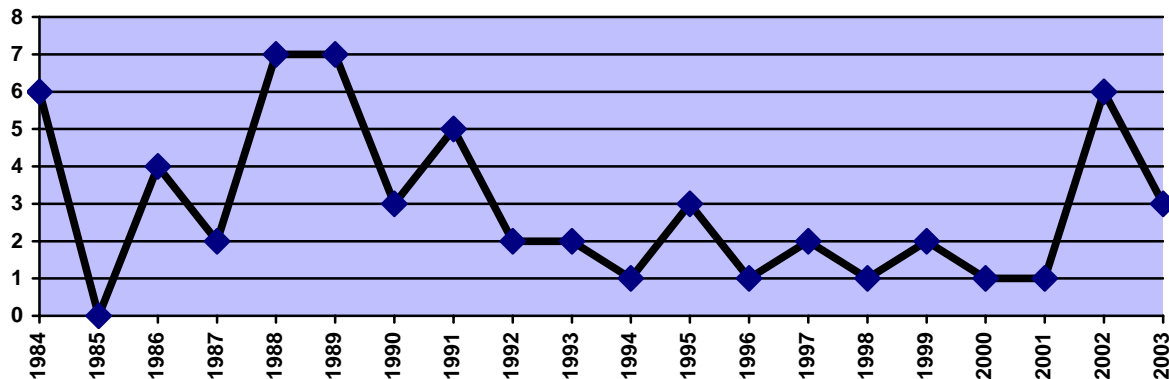


# MURDER

*Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, as defined in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program, is the willful (non-negligent) killing of one human being by another. The classification of this offense, as for all other Crime Index Offenses, is based solely on police investigation, as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury, or other judicial body. Not included in the count for this offense classification are deaths caused by negligence, suicide, or accident; justifiable homicides; and attempts to murder or assaults with the intent to murder, which are scored as aggravated assaults.*

**Twenty Year Review:  
Murder in Cambridge, 1984-2003**



## Characteristics of Murder in Cambridge

For the 30-year period between 1960 and 1989, the City of Cambridge averaged four and a half murders per year. The annual average in the 1990s has fallen to two and a half per year. Nationally, cities of 100,000 residents average 10 murders each year. Trend analysis over the past few years points to three recurring murder scenarios in Cambridge: domestic murder, in which an elderly female is brutally killed by her husband in a homicidal rage; arguments among the homeless that, often fueled by drugs or alcohol, escalate into deadly violence; and the murder of young males by a handgun or knife in street robberies or drug deals gone awry.

Since 1990, there have been 34 murders in the city of Cambridge. These 34 murders occurred during 32 separate incidents, meaning that in two incidents two people were killed. Of the 34 homicides, nineteen of the victims were male (average age of 29) and fifteen were female (average age of 42). The most common weapons used in Cambridge murders since 1990 are knives (10 incidents) and handguns (6 incidents). Ten of the 34 murder cases reported since 1990 are still under investigation. The highest total of homicides in Cambridge in the past thirty years was in 1972 when 14 murders were registered. A map showing all of the murder dates and locations since 1990 can be found on page 22.

## Six Reported in 2002 • Three Reported in 2003

### Verbal Exchange Escalates Into Stabbing Death

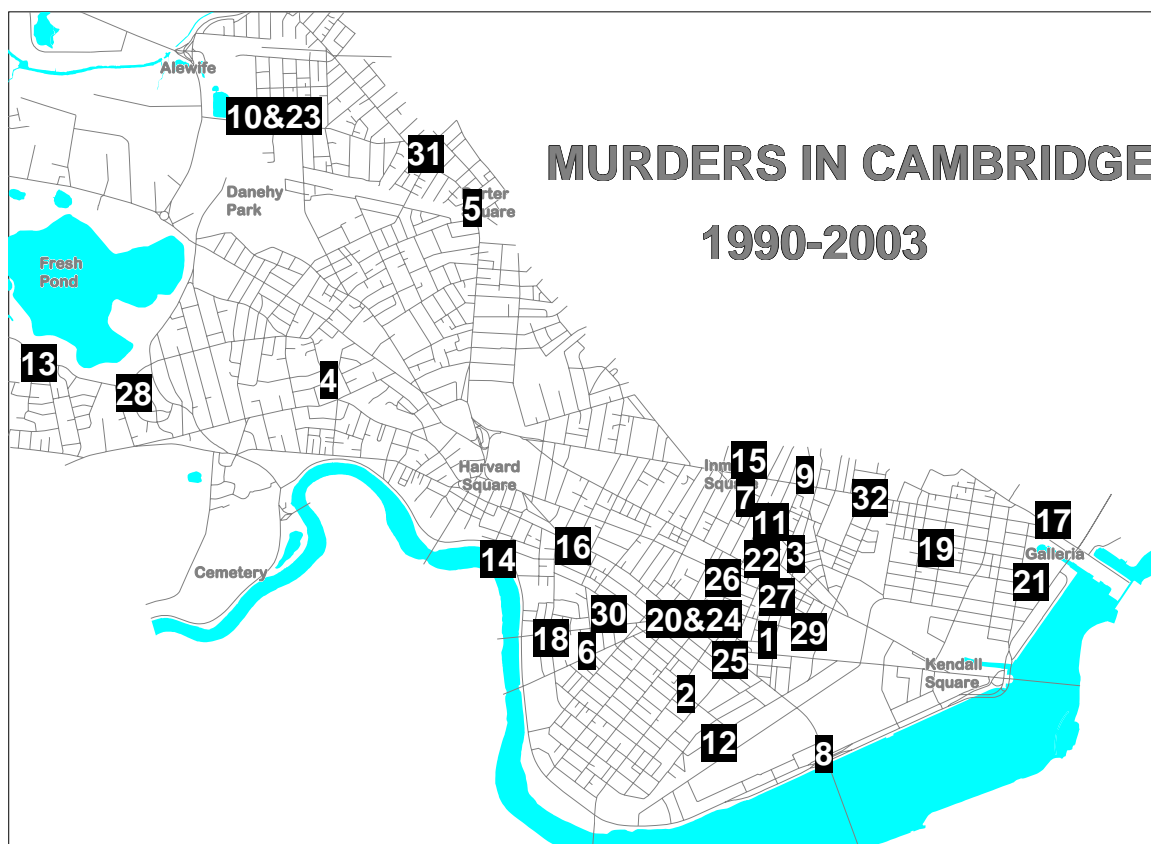
In the early morning hours of Saturday, April 12th, 2003, Alexander Pring-Wilson, a 25-year-old Harvard University graduate student, was arrested for the stabbing death of Michael Colono, an 18-year-old Cambridgeport resident. The incident involved the escalation of a verbal exchange into a street fight at the intersection of Western Avenue and Jay Street. On Tuesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, Pring-Wilson was released on \$400,000 cash bail with restrictions. This case is awaiting trial.

### Deadly Shooting Outside Porter Square

On June 8th, 2003, officers responded to the parking lot of a Kentucky Fried Chicken located just past Porter Square to find Robert Scott lying face down from bullet wounds to the back. Multiple witnesses stated that Scott and his girlfriend were waiting for the bus when the suspect came up to them and began firing. Thanks to willing witnesses, Markendy Jean of Malden was identified as the prime suspect responsible for this homicide. Warrants were issued for Jean and after it was discovered that he had fled to Northern Florida, surveillance was set up. Due to the combined efforts of the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Cambridge Police Department and Massachusetts State Police, along with the cooperation of the Metro-Dade and North Miami Police Department, Jean turned himself over to the authorities in the early morning hours of July 3, 2003. Jean is currently in custody and awaiting trial.

## Elderly Resident Stabbed to Death

On November 24th, 2003, the body of Mary Toomey, a 75-year old woman, was found in a duffle bag in her apartment. Anthony DiBenedetto, who had been living with Toomey at the time, was arrested at the scene. Three days prior to the discovery of the body, DiBenedetto and Toomey had an argument, which ended with Toomey being stabbed in the neck and back. A note was left on the door of Toomey's apartment stating that Toomey was away, but neighbors became worried and called police to check on her well being, leading to the discovery of her body. DiBenedetto is currently in custody and was found competent to stand trial in January of 2004.



The map above and the table below recapitulate the 32 incidents of murder—resulting in the deaths of 34 people—between 1990 and 2003. Eleven of these murders are incidents of gang, drug, knife and gun violence involving young men; eight are domestic and family violence killings; three are murders between homeless people; two sprang from a heated argument at a restaurant; one stemmed from a store hold-up gone awry; one involved an argument between two unrelated individuals living together; and in six cases, the motivation or cause of the murder is unknown. Ten of these incidents have not been solved and are under investigation.

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
1	1/25/90 01:00	Windsor St. & School St. (Area 4)	Jessie McKie, 21 and Rigoberto Carrion, 30, of Cambridge	Ventrey Gordon, 20, and Sean Lee, 21, of Mattapan.	McKie and Carrion were walking on the street when a group of men approached them. The men tried to steal McKie's leather jacket and stabbed both victims to death.	Gordon and Lee both convicted of murder. One other man convicted of accessory to murder. A fourth man tried and acquitted.
2	4/3/90 00:00 to 06:00	100 Pacific St. (Cambridgeport)	Jacqueline W. Blenman, 39, of Cambridge	Unknown	The victim was found strangled and dumped on the street.	Unsolved

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
3	3/15/91 23:00	97 Hampshire St. (Inman/Harrington)	Uri Woods, 29, of Cambridge	Unknown	The victim was shot to death on the street.	Unsolved
4	4/4/91 20:58	Sparks St. & Brewster St. (West Cambridge)	Mary Joe Frug, 49, of Cambridge	A white male in his 20's in a black leather jacket	Frug was walking a few blocks from her residence when an unknown assailant stabbed her to death.	Unsolved
5	5/7/91	Porter Square (North Cambridge)	Derrick Chance, 24, of Cambridge	Courtney Lewis, 24, of Cambridge	The victim was slashed to death with a razor during an argument in a fast food restaurant.	Lewis was convicted of manslaughter.
6	9/29/91 03:30	16 Mildred Hamilton Pl. (Riverside)	Bobbie Schley, 45, of Cambridge	Morris King, 48, of Barbados	Schley was stabbed to death in an argument with King, her boyfriend.	King was convicted of murder.
7	12/5/91 15:00	162 Hampshire St. (Area 4)	Esther Olofson, 49, of Cambridge	Unknown	Olofson was reported missing by her friends and family. Her body was later found in her bed. She had apparently been strangled.	Unsolved
8	9/19/92 20:30	Massachusetts Av. & Memorial Dr. (MIT)	Yngye Raustein, 21, an MIT student	Shon McHugh, 16; Joseph Donovan, 17; and Alfredo Velez, 18, all of Cambridge	Raustein was stabbed to death in a robbery gone sour.	All three suspects were convicted of murder
9	11/28/92 00:30	Cambridge St. & Columbia St. (Inman/Harrington)	Tyrone Phoenix, 18, of Dorchester	Shawn Carter, 21, of Cambridge	Phoenix and other youths were driving in Cambridge. When they came to a stoplight, Carter came over and tapped on the window. After being told to get away from the car, he pulled out a pistol and started shooting.	Carter was convicted of murder
10	9/22/93 21:30	324 Rindge Ave. (North Cambridge)	Michael Garner, 23, of Cambridge	Three young black males	Michael Garner was walking home when three young black males confronted him and tried to rob him of his gold chains. The robbery went astray, and Garner was shot twice and killed.	Unsolved
11	9/25/93 19:30	160 Elm St. (Inman/Harrington)	Rosalie Whalen, 54, of Cambridge	Dennis Whalen, 54, of Cambridge	Whalen bludgeoned his wife to death with a hammer.	Whalen was convicted of murder
12	3/31/94 16:00	Rear of CASPAR shelter, 240 Albany St. (Cambridgeport)	Edward Semino	Unknown	The victim was beaten to death in a fight between homeless people.	Unsolved
13	1/24/95	700 Huron Ave. (Strawberry Hill)	Claire Downing, 60, of Cambridge	Ken Downing, 62, of Cambridge	Downing beat his wheelchair-bound wife to death with a blunt object.	Downing was tried and convicted of murder
14	5/30/95 08:00	Harvard University Dunster House (Riverside)	Trang Phuong Ho, 22, Harvard student	Sinedu Tadesse, Harvard student	After Ho told Tadesse she did not want to room with her the following year, Tadesse stabbed Ho to death and then hung herself.	Tadesse committed suicide.
15	8/9/95 15:30	304 Prospect St. (Inman/Harrington)	Lilia Fagundes, 42, owner of market	Black male, 15-16 years old, with a thin build	Fagundes was shot to death in her store, possibly in a robbery gone awry	Unsolved
16	11/22/96 18:40	1033 Massachusetts Ave. (Mid-Cambridge)	Laurence Cooper, 50s, a homeless veteran	Richard Kachadorian, 50, of Cambridge	Kachadorian stabbed Cooper in the throat and chest during a street argument.	Kachadorian was tried and convicted of murder
17	3/26/97 01:25	East Street trailer yards (East Cambridge)	Helena Gardner, 19, homeless	Nicole Fernandes, 19, homeless; Randy Williams, homeless; Mark McCray, homeless	Fernandes lured Gardner, with the promise of a drink, to an abandoned trailer. Fernandes bound Gardner to a chair, whipped her with a metal rod and rose thorns, and then bludgeoned her to death with a sledgehammer before setting the trailer on fire. The two men watched.	All three suspects were convicted of murder.
18	8/19/97 20:55	Hoyt Field (Riverside)	Benny Rosa, 19, of Cambridge	Anthony Cole, 20, and Craig Joseph, 25, of Boston	Cole and Joseph encountered each other in Hoyt Field and fired on each other. Rosa was caught in the crossfire. Two others were wounded.	Cole was convicted of 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder and Joseph was convicted of 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder.

Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status
19	10/16/98 10:56	157 Fifth St. (East Cambridge)	Joseph Beranger, 64, and Mary Beranger, 64, of California	John J. Hinds, 56, of Cambridge	Hinds and his half-brother, Joseph, and sister were involved in an on-going dispute over their mother and her residence. At the time of the incident, Joseph and his wife Mary were on their way to see their mother. Hinds got there first, an argument ensued, and Hinds shot his sister in the head. Then he fatally shot Joseph and Mary Beranger.	Hinds was convicted of 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder.
20	9/18/99 03:15	496 Massachusetts Ave. (Cambridgeport)	Colin Burton, 30, of Dorchester	2 or more black males in a Ford Explorer	Burton and two friends stopped at Hi-Fi Pizza in Central Square. A green Ford Explorer pulled up outside the restaurant. While Burton was talking with the occupants, he banged on the hood of the vehicle. The man in the passenger seat fired through the open window, striking Burton once in the chest. Burton died the following Monday.	Under active investigation
21	12/23/99 17:10	CambridgeSide Galleria parking garage (East Cambridge)	Gary M. Chatelain, 20, of Roslindale	Jose N. Correia, 20, of Roxbury	Chatelain and Correia, known to each other, were part of two groups involved in a fight in the garage. Correia shot Chatelain in the chest.	Correia was convicted of manslaughter.
22	7/6/2000 02:06	101 Hampshire St. (Inman/ Harrington)	Jeffrey Williams, 33, of Cambridge	Frederick J. Howard, 22, of Cambridge	Police responded to a call that someone had been shot in the leg at 101 Hampshire St. Once on scene Williams was found shot in the chest and died later at Mass General Hospital. A suspect identified as Howard was seen running away from the scene. The victim had called a friend stating that the man and woman he was out with were arguing and that he had escorted the woman back to her residence.	Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter.
23	1/7/2001 14:30	Jefferson Park (North Cambridge)	11-month old female	John Forbes, 30, of Roxbury	Cambridge police and fire units responded to an apartment in Jefferson Park. When officers arrived, they found an eleven-month-old baby lying on the bed unresponsive and not breathing. The baby was transported to the hospital, but later died. The baby's father, John Forbes of Roxbury stated that the baby had choked on an orange peel. The medical examiner determined that the infant had died from massive trauma to her head, consistent with "shaken baby" syndrome.	Forbes was convicted of 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder.
24	2/11/2002 14:30	522 Massachusetts Ave. (Cambridgeport)	Azedine Lachhab, 42, of East Boston	Jason Girouard, 32, of Waltham	Lachhab died after 11 days in the hospital from severe head trauma that resulted from a fight at the Hi-Fi in Central Square.	Girouard was found not guilty at trial.
25	4/5/2002	315 Massachusetts Ave. (Area 4)	Ian Gray, 19, of Mattapan	Black male	An argument that transpired inside the Rhythm & Spice restaurant spilled out onto Mass Ave. One person left the scene of the argument and then returned with 7-8 more people when a fight ensued. A knife was produced during the fight, and four gunshots were fired, fatally wounding Gray.	Under Active Investigation
26	4/17/2002	16 Worcester St. (Area 4)	Desiree Saunders, 36, of Cambridge	Scott Saunders, 37, of Cambridge	Police arrived to the scene to find the victim lying on her back in her bed with gunshot wounds. Her assailant and husband was found at the foot of the bed with one gunshot wound to his head after he had committed suicide.	Scott Saunders committed suicide.
27	6/17/2002	167 Windsor St. (Area 4)	Ricardo Williams, 27, of Malden	Unknown	Police responded to possible gunshots to find Williams in the driver's seat of a 2002 Infiniti with gunshot wounds to the left side of his face. Williams was taken to Cambridge City Hospital where he was pronounced dead.	Under Active Investigation
28	6/18/2002	Aberdeen Ave. & Huron Ave. (Strawberry Hill)	Sean A. Howard, 19, of Dorchester	Andrew Power-Koch, 20, of Cambridge	Power-Koch confessed to accidentally shooting his best friend, Howard, in the chest at the railroad track area of Aberdeen Ave.	Power-Koch was found guilty of manslaughter.
Map #	Date & Time	Location	Victim(s)	Offender(s)	Story	Status

29	10/21/2002	29 Newtowne Ct. (Area 4)	Gregory Robinson of Boston	Anthony Jakes, 23, of Milton	Robinson and Jakes got into an altercation in front of the victim's apartment. Jakes then stabbed Robinson and fled. Jakes later turned himself into police custody. Robinson was taken to Mass General Hospital where he died the following day.	Jakes was found not guilty at trial.
30	4/12/2003	Western Ave. & Jay St. (Riverside)	Michael Colono, 18, of Cambridge	Alexander Pring- Wilson, 25, of Cambridge	Colono and Pring-Wilson were outside of the Pizza Ring when they got into a verbal altercation. The altercation escalated and Pring-Wilson stabbed Colono to death.	Awaiting Trial
31	6/8/2003	2067 Mass. Ave. (North Cambridge)	Robert Scott, 26, of Cambridge	Markendy Jean, 26, of Malden	Scott was waiting for the bus with his girlfriend when Jean started shooting at him. Scott ran into the parking lot of the Kentucky Fried Chicken while Jean continued to shoot, striking him and killing him on scene. Jean fled to Florida but later turned himself in to authorities.	Awaiting Trial
32	11/24/2003	124 Berkshire St. (Inman/Harrington)	Mary Toomey, 75, of Cambridge	Anthony DiBenedetto, 47, of Cambridge	DiBenedetto had been living with Toomey for about seven years when they got into an argument and DiBenedetto stabbed Toomey in the neck. Toomey fell to the ground and DiBenedetto then stabbed her in the back two times and put her body in a duffle bag. Police later found the duffle bag in Toomey's apartment and arrested DiBenedetto	Awaiting Trial

### **Murder Across the State & Nation**

In 2002\*, the United States reported 16,204 murders, representing an increase of 1% from the 16,037 homicides recorded in 2001. Since the early 1990s, the murder total for the nation has been steadily decreasing. For example, a decade ago in 1992, there were a total of 23,760 homicides, which is 32% higher than the 2002 total. In 1998, the total was 5% higher than the 2002 total.

Across the nation, murder victims are 34% female and 77% male; Cambridge has a higher percentage of female murder victims (probably because of our relatively low number of gang-related homicides, in which the victims are usually male). The average male murder victim is in his mid-20s and the average female murder victim is either in her early 20s or late 30s. Murder victims in Cambridge are consistent in age with the national trend. Male victims are usually in the mid-20s and female victims are usually close to 40 years old.

Massachusetts seemed to do better than the national average, even though the state experienced a nominal increase of 33 incidents (145 in 2001 to 178 in 2002). Boston experiences the majority of the state's homicides, as it did in 2002 with 60 homicides. Of the towns surrounding Cambridge (Watertown, Belmont, Arlington, and Somerville) only Somerville reported any homicides (3) in 2002.

*\*Statistics for 2003 are not yet available for other cities and towns.*